KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) As on 31-1-1993, 6 letters of intent issued for establishment of new sugar mills in the co-operative sector in Uttar Pradesh, are pending implementation. The financial institutions have informed that in one case term loan has been sanctioned, two other cases are pending consideration and in the remaining 3 cases, applications are yet to be received by them.

(c) Keeping in view the increase in project cost, a new incenitve scheme has been formulated by the Government which would enable the financial institutions to consider the pending applications

Progress of National Action Plans

1399. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any progress in regard to the national action plans to combat hunger and malnutrition, as agreed in the Rome International Conference on Nutrition: and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Substantial progress has been made, both by the Central as well as State Governments, to combat hunger and malnutrition as agreed in the International Conference on Nutrition held at Rome. Some of the areas where action has already been taken are briefly mentioned in the annexed statement. (*See* below). The existing programmes will, however, be examined in detail to modify/expand them so that the goals set in the World Declaration and Plan of Action on Nutrition could be achieved in the shortest possible time.

Statement

Some major components of the National Action Plan proposed for the International Conference on Nutrition held in Rome in December, 1992.	Action being taken by Government of India
1. To make all efforts to eliminate before the end of this decade :	
(a) Famine and famine-related deaths and starvation affected by natural and man-made disasters.	A Cabinet Committee on Natural Calamities has been fcWnsiued o examine, direc and conro programmes for reducing he adverse impac of natura /caiamiies and o direc and moni or impaiemen a ion of relief measures in he wvke of na urcalamiies Keepin in vicA, he objec ives and s ra egies enuncia ed by hefUni ed Na ions General Assembly Resolu ion. a Na ional Advisory Council has een fconsiued which includes par icipa ion o` Sae Governmens. Scien ific and Technical Organisa ions and Non-Governmen al Organisaions Excu ion o rlie opera ions in he wake of na ural cal mi ies is primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments concerned A Committee Weaded by the Chief Secretary has been empowered to decide fhn all matters connected with relief operations
(b) Iodine aCEd Zitamin A de cieCEcies	National Goitre Control Programme and the prot phylaxis programmes against blindness deu to Zitamin 'A' deficiency amÆng children aim a achieving this goal. These actions are supplemented with interventions likefoMti cation of foodstuff

with appropriate micro-nutrients, promotion of growing micro-nutrient rich horticultural produce coupled with nutrition education.

2. To reduce substantially within the decade :

(a) Starvation and widespread chronic hunger.

Alleviation of poverty, particularly in the rural areas has been taken up by implementing schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Integrated Rural Development Programmes etc. The programmes are directed towards generation of income thereby creating access to basic food needs.

(b) Undernutrition, especially among children, women and the aged.

Improvement of household food security is considered one of the important components, of tackling undernutrition. Procurement of foodgrains, storage, movement and distribution thereof through the Public Distribution System and the maintenance of national grain reserve/buffer stocks are the main planks of this system. It ensures maintaining adequate supply of foodgrains to the consumers at reasonable prices and affords a sense of food security to the country. Recently, the Public Distribution System has been revamped to cover the more under-privileged areas like drought prone, flood prone, desert, hilly, etc. The Integrated Child Development Services Programmes which already covers about 2694 of the total 6300 blocks in the country also tackles the health & nutritional problems of the children upto 6 years of age and expectant/nursing mothers.

(c) Micronutrient deficiencies including iron.

National Programme on prophylaxis against nutritional anaemia is aimed at reducing the prevalence of nutritional anaemia. The efforts are supplemented with programmes like fortification of salt with iron, appropriate horticultural intervention besides nutrition education programmes conducted through a network of 43 field units of the Food and Nutrition Board. Services of NGOs are also enlisted in disseminating suitable knowledge on nutrition.

(d) Diet-related communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Under the Minimum Needs Programme, subcentres (one centre for every 3000–5000 population) and Primary Health Centres (one centre for every 20,000–30,000 population) are functioning with a view to providing comprehensive health care services.

(e) Social and other impediments to optimal breast feeding.

Maternal and Child Health Programmes are aimed at promotion of breast feeding. In order to intensify effort a bill on "Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of production supply and distribution) Bill, 1992" had been passed recently.

(f) Inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene including unsafe drinking water.

Rural Water Supply and Rural Sanitation Programmes seek to solve the problems relating to inadequacy of safe drinking water; improper disposal of human, excreta, solid and liquid wastes leading to unfavourable environmental conditions and lack of personal and food hygiene which have been the major causes of many killer diseases.